

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 AID-20 NIC-01 EUR-25 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1938

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8917

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PONS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 WEEKLY CEASEFIRE OVERVIEW, MAY 12-19

THE FOLLOWING SENT SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG 19 MAY 73
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION AND INFO. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0527

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 WEEKLY CEASE- FIRE OVERVIEW, MAY 13-19

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SECURITY SITUATION: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN VIET- NAM' S MILITARY
REGION II DURING THE 16 TH WEEK SINCE THE CEASE- FIRE
REMAINED AT AN EXTREMELY LOW LEVEL SAVE IN BINH DINH PROVINCE.
THERE, IN PHU MY DISTRICT, ON THE MORNING OF MAY 16 A COMPANY OF
THE 40 TH REGIMENT, 23 RD DIVISION, IN RESPONSE TO INTELLIGENCE
REPORTS SURROUNDED A VIET CONG TRAINING CAMP AND KILLED 53 OF THE
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ENEMY, CAPTURING NUMEROUS WEAPONS AND SUFFERING ONLY TWO WOUNDED.

THIS INCIDENT WAS THE MOST COSTLY TO THE VC IN THE REGION SINCE THE CEASE- FIRE. IT WAS ONE OF THREE BATTLES FOUGHT IN PHU MY DISTRICT ALONG ROUTE 506 IN WHICH TOTAL LOSSES WERE: VC-82 KIA, ARVN -1 KIA AND 3 WIA. THIS SERIES OF ACTIONS TENDS TO BEAR OUT THE OPINIONS OF ARVN COMMANDERS CITED IN LAST WEEK' MR II OVERVIEW (NHA TRANG 496 REPEATED AS SAIGON 8435) THAT THE TATICAL INITIATIVE IN NORTHERN BINH DINH IS NOW WITH GVN FORCES.

2. BUDDHA' S BIRTHDAY: BUDDHA' S BIRTHDAY ON MAY 17 WAS CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT THE REGION WITH MORE FANFARE THAN IN IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEARS. NHA TRANG AND PHAN THIET WERE PARTICULARLY FESTIVE. PHAN THIET HAD A TORCH LIGHT PARADE AND NHA TRANG ON THE NIGHT OF THE 16 TH WAS ILLUMINATED BY FIREWORKS AND FLARES.

3. CADET WITHDRAWAL: OCS CADETS WHO HAD BEEN CONDUCTING PROPAGANDA OPERATIONS IN ALL THE PROVINCES OF THE REGION SINCE JUST BEFORE THE CEASE- FIRE ARE NOW BEING WITHDRAWN. THOUGH ILL TRAINED FOR THEIR TASK, THEIR GENERAL ENTHUSIASM AND VIGOR PROBABLY RESULTED IN A NET PLUS FOR THE GOVERNMENT. IF NOTHING ELSE THE PROGRAM INTRODUCED A LOT OF CITY BOYS TO THEIR RURAL COMPATRIOTS AND SHOWED MANY FARMERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS AT LAST INTERESTED. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, A FAIRLY HIGH ATTRITION RATE-- ILLNESS, AWOL, DESERTIONS-- WHICH HAS CONCERNED GVN OFFICIALS.

4. ICCS: THE ICCS DURING THE WEEK CONTINUED TO BE FRUSTRATED BY HUNGARIAN AND POLISH OBSTRUCTIONISM. REGION III MOUNTED SUPPLY AND LIAISON FLIGHTS TO THE TEMPORARILY ABANDONED POINT OF ENTRY SITE AT DUC CO WHICH, IN COOPERATION WITH THE PRG, IT IS TRYING TO IMPROVE SO AS TO ALLOW AN ICCS TEAM TO RETURN. DIFFICULTIES ALSO PERSISTED AT REGION III (PLEIKU) OVER DAO EFFORTS TO WITHDRAW EQUIPMENT PRESENTLY BEING USED BY THE ICCS. REGION III HAS PROTESTED TO ICCS SAIGON OVER WHAT IT CONSIDERED " UNJUSTIFIED HARASSMENT." ENGLE
UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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